

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8545

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

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ROME FOR INS FALCHER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, CVIS

SUBJECT: ASSYRIAN AND ARMENIAN REFUGEES

REF: ATHENS 2029

1. UNHCR HAS PROVIDED MISSION BUDGET ESTIMATES AND MOVEMENT
SCHEDULE FOR SUBJECT REFUGEES, AS FOLLOWS:

BUDGET: (A) BOARD AND ROOM FOR AVERAGE STAY OF FIFTEEN
DAYS IN ATHENS OF 1500 REFUGEES AT EIGHT DOLLARS PER DAY,
TOTAL, 180,000; (B) SAME FOR AVERAGE STAY OF 90 DAYS FOR
300 REFUGEES AT NINE DOLLARS PER DAY (INCREASE CAUSED BY
HIGHER COSTS IN TOURIST SEASON AFTER APRIL 15), TOTAL,
\$243,000; (C) TRANSPORTATION WITHIN GREECE, TOTAL, \$10,800;
(D) MEDICAL AID, EMERGENCIES AND RESERVE, TOTAL \$51,800
GRAND TOTAL, \$500,000.

FOREGOING BASED ON PLANNED MOVEMENTS, AS FOLLOWS: (A) TO
ATHENS, 140 REFUGEES EVERY OTHER DAY, THIRTEEN ROTATIONS,
BEGINNING MARCH 7 AND ENDING APRIL 3; (B) DEPARTURES FROM ATHENS,
60 REFUGEES PER DAY, BEGINNING MARCH 20, ENDING APRIL 14;

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FOOTNOTE ADDS THAT SPEEDING UP OF U.S. DOCUMENTATION PRO-

CEDURES (VISAS) COULD REDUCE BY HALF ESTIMATED LAYOVER PERIOD
ATHENS OF FIFTEEN WORK DAYS OR THREE CALENDAR WEEKS.

2. UNHCR URGES THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE BE DONE TO
EXPEDITE ATHENS PROCESSING IN ORDER ALLEVIATE BURDEN UPON
REFUGEES, COMPLY WITH GREEK GOVERNMENT'S EXPRESSED WISH
FOR MINIMUM TRANSIT TIME, AND MINIMIZE HEAVY DRAWDOWN
ON UNHCR'S EMERGENCY ACCOUNT, BEING USED TO FINANCE
REFUGEES' MAINTENANCE IN ATHENS, AND WHICH
AS DEPT AWARE IS LIMITED TO HALF MILLION DOLLARS
PROGRAMMED ABOVE FOR ANY SINGLE OPERATION. MISSION THERE-
FORE FULLY ENDORSES ATHENS RECOMMENDATIONS SET FORTH REFTEL
THAT SPECIAL VISAS EAGLE AND DELTA PROCEDURES BE
ESTABLISHED FOR THIS OPERATION TO PERMIT ITS EARLIEST
POSSIBLE CONCLUSION. DALE

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